

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A window covering support comprising in combination:
  - a hollow support tube terminating in open ends;
  - a pair of decorative finials, one of the decorative finials being supported within each end of the support tube, each finial including a decorative portion and a generally cylindrical support post extending from the decorative portion into an end of the support tube; and
  - a pair of support sleeves, one of the support sleeves being lodged within each end of the support tube intermediate the support tube and the support post of a respective finial, the support sleeves being compressed by the support tube and the finial support posts to maintain a tight fit therebetween and thereby to support and retain the finial on the support tube.
2. The window covering support of claim 1, wherein the support tube is a rigid metal tube.
3. The window covering support of claim 1, wherein the finial support posts are metal posts and the support sleeves are made of a material softer than the support posts, and wherein the finial support posts interference fit with the support sleeves.
4. The window covering support of claim 1, wherein the finial support posts include a tapered tip for facilitating insertion of the support posts into the support sleeves.
- 25 5. The window covering support of claim 1, wherein each support sleeve includes a peripheral lip portion contacting at least a portion of the end of the support tube to prevent complete insertion of the support sleeve into the support tube.

6. A window covering support, comprising:  
a support rod having first and second hollow ends;  
first and second decorative finials supported on the first and second  
ends of the support rod, respectively, each finial including a decorative portion  
and a metallic support post; and

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first and second support sleeves disposed intermediate the first and  
second ends and the first and second finials respectively, the support sleeves  
having an outer surface conforming to an inner surface of the hollow ends and an  
inner surface configured to engage the support posts in an interference fit to  
support and retain the finials on the support rod.

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7. The window covering support of claim 6, wherein the support rod  
is a rigid metal rod.

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8. The window covering support of claim 6, wherein the support rod  
is an elongated tube.

9. The window covering support of claim 6, wherein the support  
sleeves are made of a synthetic plastic material.

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10. The window covering support of claim 6, wherein each support  
sleeve includes an annular stop in contact with the associated end of the support  
rod, the annular stop limiting insertion of the support sleeves in the support rod.

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11. The window covering support of claim 6, wherein the support  
sleeves are generally cylindrical in shape and are press fitted into the ends of the  
support rod.

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12. A method for supporting a decorative finial on a hollow end of a  
support rod, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an elongated support post extending from the  
finial;

(b) pressing a support sleeve into the hollow end of the support rod, the support sleeve being made of a material softer than the finial support post; and

5 (c) pressing the finial support post into the support sleeve to establish an interference fit between the support post and the support sleeve.

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13. ~~The method of claim 12, wherein the support sleeve includes stop extending from an outer surface thereof, the stop contacting the end of the support rod to limit insertion of the support sleeve into the support rod in step (b).~~

10 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the support post includes a tapered tip for facilitating its insertion into the support sleeve in step (c).

15 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the finial includes a stop, the stop contacting the support sleeve to limit insertion of the support post into the support sleeve in step (c).